

State Environmental Policy Act

DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE AND SCOPING NOTICE

Request for Comments on the Scope of the Environmental Impact Statement for the Brightwater Regional Wastewater Treatment System

Dear Community Members:

Quality wastewater treatment is essential to protect public health and the environment. For nearly 40 years, wastewater from north King County and south Snohomish County has flowed south to King County's two regional wastewater treatment plants. To continue to serve this growing area, King County is proposing to build a new wastewater treatment system, called Brightwater, by 2010.

No decisions have been made about final locations for the new facilities. In 1999, King County began to look for suitable locations for the Brightwater treatment plant, conveyance pipes, and marine outfall. We are now beginning a formal environmental review under the State Environmental Policy Act. We will evaluate two alternative treatment plant sites, several alternative pipeline corridors, and three alternative Puget Sound outfall zones in an environmental impact statement (EIS).

The public has been involved throughout this process, and I'm writing now to encourage you to get involved in "scoping," the first step of the environmental review process. You are receiving this notice because you may live near or own property near one of the areas being considered for Brightwater facilities, or you are a tribal government, local jurisdiction, agency, business, interest group, or individual that could be affected by the proposed system. The purpose of scoping is to give people opportunities to say what they think about the alternatives, impacts, and mitigation measures that should be evaluated in the EIS. The information gathered during scoping will help identify significant issues and focus

King County is committed to being a good neighbor. There will be impacts in local areas because of the construction and operation of Brightwater, but we want to work with you to create ways to reduce those impacts. Please review these materials and tell us what you think by **June 27, 2002**.

Sincerely,

the EIS analysis.

Don Theiler, Manager and SEPA Responsible Official Wastewater Treatment Division

King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks

DETAILED SCOPING NOTICE INSIDE

LEARN MORE-COME TO A SCOPING MEETING

King County will host public meetings to provide additional information on the proposed Brightwater project and to receive public comments on the scope of the EIS. All meetings will be held from **5:00 PM to 8:00 PM**, so come any time. Formal oral comments will be limited to three minutes and will be recorded by a court reporter. More extensive comments may be submitted in writing.

Wednesday, June 5th

Lake Forest Park Elementary School 18500 – 37th Ave NE Lake Forest Park, WA 98155

Thursday, June 6th

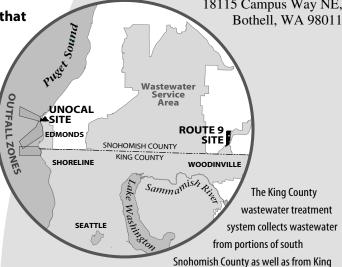
Hollywood Schoolhouse 14810 NE 145 th St Woodinville, WA 98072

Monday, June 10th

Edmonds Floral Conf. Center 201 Fourth Ave N Edmonds, WA 98020

Tuesday, June 18th

University of Washington Bothell Campus, Bldg. UW2 18115 Campus Way NE, Bothell WA 98011



County. More than 60 percent of the wastewater treated by the new Brightwater system would come from south Snohomish County.





PROJECT DESCRIPTION

King County is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate alternative wastewater systems for Brightwater. Each system includes a treatment plant, pipelines and pump stations to carry wastewater, and an outfall to discharge treated wastewater into Puget Sound.

The Brightwater treatment plant will be at one of two

locations – either the Unocal site in the City of Edmonds or the Route 9 site in unincorporated Snohomish County. The plant will provide secondary treatment capacity in 2010 for an average of 36 million gallons of wastewater per day, with anticipated expansion in about 2040 to 54 million gallons per day. It will also produce both highly treated water for nondrinking water uses such as irrigation and industrial processes and biosolids for use in forestry and agriculture. Options at the Unocal site include providing a lid to allow multiple uses and/or expanding plant capacity up to 72 million gallons per day to incorporate flows from Edmonds and/or Lynnwood.

A number of alternative corridors are being considered for pipelines and other facilities needed to carry **influent** (untreated wastewater) to each site and to carry **effluent** (treated wastewater) from each site to a marine outfall. Locations of facilities may shift within these corridors as more is known about specific site conditions. For example, a portion of a pipeline route may move from a major roadway onto an adjacent street or may move from a public right-ofway onto private property.

Two primary methods of pipeline construction also are being considered – surface and tunnel construction. Construction along each corridor could use a combination of these methods. **Surface construction** involves digging a trench along roadways or through private properties, placing the pipe within the trench, filling the trench, and restoring the surface. **Pump stations** – each requiring one to two acres of land – would be needed within some corridors to lift wastewater from deep pipelines to pipelines closer to the surface.

Tunnel construction involves installing a large pipeline in a tunnel 20 feet or more beneath the surface. This method results in less surface disruption than the surface method, but it requires the construction of portals and deep shafts at several locations. **Portals and shafts** – each requiring one to two acres of land – are entry areas used to place and remove tunneling equipment and to remove excavated materials.

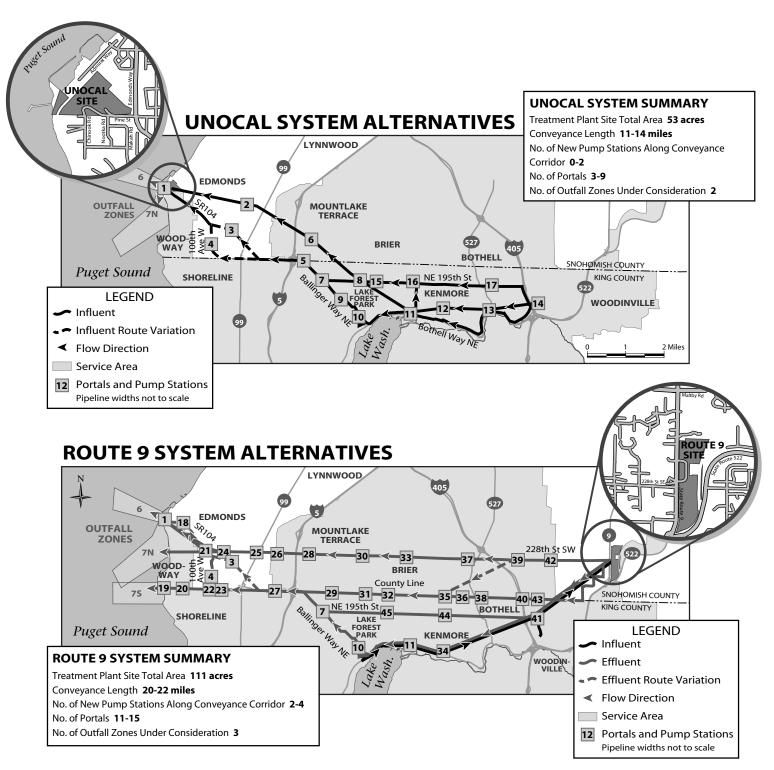
Once the conveyance facilities have been built, very little will be visible at the surface, with the exception of the pump stations and structures required at some portal locations for tunnel maintenance. These facilities will be designed to blend into the surrounding neighborhood.

The EIS will consider **three alternative zones for an outfall pipeline** to carry the effluent across the shoreline and nearshore areas and discharge it to Puget Sound. The EIS will evaluate the impacts of both surface and tunnel construction methods and the impact of discharges on water quality and aquatic life.

APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF PORTALS AND PUMP STATIONS

A portal or pump station may be located within approximately one-quarter mile of each location listed below:

- 1 Admiral Way & Edmonds Marina Beach
- 2 221st PI SW & 84th Ave W
- 3 SR 104 & 232nd St SW
- 4 238th St SW & Firdale Ave
- 5 Ballinger Wy NE & NE 205th St
- 6 235th St SW & 56th Ave W
- Ballinger Wy NE & 25th Ave NE
- 8 NE 195th Pl & 45th Ave NE
- Ballinger Wy NE & 35th Ave NE
- 10 NE 178th St & 44th Ave NE
- 11 NE 175th St & 68th Ave NE
- 12 NE 183rd St & 80th Ave NE
- 13 Bothell Wy NE & Woodinville Dr
- 14 North Creek Pkwy S & 120th Ave NE
- 15 NE 195th St & 53rd Ave NE
- 16 NE 196th St & 66th Ave NE
- 17 NE 195th St & 100th Ave NE
- **18** SR 104 & Pine St
- NW 205th St & Richmond Beach Dr NW
- 20 NW 205th St & 20th Ave NW
- 21 SR 104 & 102nd Pl W
- NW 205th St & 8th Ave NW
- 23 NW 205th St & Firdale Ave
- 24 228th St SW & 95th Pl W
- 25 228th St SW & 80th Ave W
- 26 228th St SW & 72nd Pl W
- 27 NE 205th St & 1st Ave NE
- 28 228th St SW & 58th Ave W
- 29 NE 205th St & 30th Ave NE
- 30 228th St SW & 35th Ave W
- 31 NE 203rd Ct & 46th Pl NE
- 32 NE 205th St & 60th Ave NE
- 228th St SW & Locust Way
- 34 NE Bothell Wy & 80th Ave NE
- 35 NE 205th St & 80th Ave NE
- **36** NE 203rd Pl & 88th Ave NE
- 37 228th St SE & 9th Ave SE
- 38 NE 204th St & 96th Ave NE
- 39 228th St SE & 31st Ave SE
- **40** NE 205th St & I-405
- 41 NE 195th St & 120th Ave NE
- 42 228th St SE & 45th Ave SE
- 43 NE 204th Pl & 120th Ave NE
- 44 NE 195th St & 80th Ave NE
- 45 NE 195th St & 58th Ave NE



These maps show the alternatives that will be evaluated in the Brightwater Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). One set of alternatives applies to the Unocal treatment plant site; the other set applies to the Route 9 treatment plant site. After the Final EIS is completed, only one treatment plant site, one pipeline route to carry influent to the treatment plant and effluent from there to Puget Sound, and one outfall zone will be selected.

Conveyance pipelines will be located within one of the corridors shown on the maps. While preliminary pipeline corridors are identified above, pipelines could be located anywhere within these 1,000-foot-wide corridors. In some places, the pipelines could follow one of a number of alternative route options (broken lines). The EIS process will be used to carefully evaluate and identify the optimal location within each corridor.

Portals and pump stations (numbered squares) will be located within one-quarter mile of the intersections listed on the previous page. Not all portals and pump stations shown will be built. The alternative selected and the type of construction method (surface or tunnel) will determine which ones will be needed.

To view more detailed maps and information, you can go to the Brightwater Internet site at http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/brightwater/env/ or to one of the libraries listed in this notice.

DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

and Request for Comments on Scope of Environmental Impact Statement

Effective May 28, 2002

King County is proposing to build a new regional wastewater treatment system, called Brightwater. The proposed system and locations being considered are described in this brochure. The Wastewater Treatment Division of the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks is both the proponent and SEPA lead agency for the proposal. As the lead agency, King County has determined that this proposal is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment; therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared as required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c).

The purpose of an EIS is to inform decisionmakers and the public about the probable significant adverse environmental impacts and potential mitigation measures for proposed actions. The Brightwater EIS will address impacts and mitigation measures for Elements of the Environment identified in the SEPA Rules (WAC 197-11-444): Earth, Air, Water, Plants and Animals, Energy and Natural Resources, Environmental Health, Land and Shoreline Use, Aesthetics/Light and Glare, Recreation, Cultural Resources, Transportation, and Public Services and Utilities.

Scoping is the first step in the environmental review process. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. You may comment on

alternatives, probable significant adverse impacts, mitigation measures, and licenses or other approvals that may be required. Methods for giving us your comments are described in this brochure. Comments must be postmarked by June 27, 2002.

After scoping, a Draft EIS will be prepared for public review. Comments will be considered in preparing the Final EIS; after the Final EIS is issued, final decisions on Brightwater will be made.

Don Theiler, Manager and SEPA Responsible Official Wastewater Treatment Division King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks

SEPA

SEPA is the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (RCW 43.21C). The SEPA Rules (WAC 197-11, Parts 4 and 5) establish the process for preparing and commenting on an EIS.

MITIGATION

Avoiding or reducing impacts, using appropriate technology, restoring the affected environment, enhancing resources, monitoring and taking corrective measures.

MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

You can find more detailed information on the proposed Brightwater project at http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/brightwater/env/ or in packets at the following libraries: Bellevue (government publications section), Bothell, Edmonds, Everett, Lake Forest Park, Lynnwood, Mill Creek, Richmond Beach, Shoreline, Woodinville, and the Seattle Central Library (government publications section). This more detailed information includes maps of alternative locations for facilities, descriptions of construction methods and the process for selecting portal and pump station locations.

You also may contact the Brightwater project team at (206) 684-6799, or toll free 1-888-707-8571.

WHAT WE'VE HEARD SO FAR

King County has begun a formal environmental review of the Brightwater proposal in accordance with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared.

Interested citizens and regulatory agencies have already identified some issues for consideration. These include impacts on air quality, drinking wells, aquifers, streams, wetlands, and wildlife; impacts on water quality and aquatic life in Puget Sound; impacts of odor, noise, light and glare, and traffic during and after construction; acquisition of properties for treatment and conveyance facilities, relocation of residents and/or businesses, and impacts to the community. These issues will be addressed in the EIS along with other issues identified during the scoping process.

WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU **BY JUNE 27, 2002**

You are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. What alternatives and impacts should we evaluate? How can we mitigate the impacts and build facilities that are compatible with the community? Comments may be submitted orally at a public meeting or in writing. Written comments may be submitted on the postage-paid comment card below, on the Internet at http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/ brightwater/env/, or in a letter.

Written comments must include your name and address. They must be postmarked no later than June 27, 2002, and sent to Environmental Planning, KSC-NR-0505, King County Wastewater **Treatment Division, 201 South Jackson** Street, Seattle, WA 98104-3855.

PROJECTED BRIGHTWATER TIMELINE

2007 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2008 2009 2010 June 5, 6, 10, and 18: -Mid-October: Draft EIS-Design and permitting Phased Public scoping meetings issued, comment period construction of of final system and public hearings begin facilities June 27: End of scoping Early December: Final EIS issued, comment period Comment period and public final system selected hearings end